SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

DATE: February 17, 2021 LOCATION: Branford High School Lower Media Center

185 East Main Street, Branford, CT

SUBJECT: FY 22 Budget Workshop Meeting

ATTENDANCE		
HERE	ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION
Y	John R. Prins, Chair	Board of Education
Y	Ellen Michaels, Vice-Chair	Board of Education
Y	Meredith Gaffney, Secretary	Board of Education
Y	Peter Berdon	Board of Education
N	Joanne Borrus	Board of Education
Y	Cristina Cantu	Board of Education
Y	Chad Edgar	Board of Education
Y	Dawn Perrotti	Board of Education
Y	Dr. Tim Raynor	Board of Education
Y	Hamlet M. Hernandez, Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Rachel Sexton, Assistant Superintendent	Central Office
Y	Don Neel, Chief Operating Officer	Central Office

Others present: Charles Cicarella, Director Pupil Services and Joe Carbone, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM DESCRIPTION

CALL

Meeting was called to order at 7:18 PM by BOE Chair John Prins.

DISCUSSION

02 Education & Capital Budget

Superintendent Hernandez presented for discussion the proposed FY 22 budget of \$758,046 which is an increase of \$59,587,008 or 1.29%. Mr. Hernandez explained the budget process – workshop and adoption. He stated that the budget needed to be transmitted (by Town Charter) to the Town on or before March 1, 2021, Board of Finance dollar amount setting, RTM Education Committee budget presentation, the RTM Education Committee recommendation to the RTM and finally RTM appropriation. Mr. Hernandez then reiterated and defined what his budget request consisted of as presented at the Superintendent's Budget Presentation on February 10, 2021.

Mr. Hernandez and members of the District's Leadership Team reviewed and answered questions submitted from Board members that included: class size and enrollment, teacher FTE's, high need, COVID related deficits, 52.5 decrease in property allocation, budget changes for staff, Pupil Service staff location, District share of self-insurance and fund balance, audio visual supplies, explain subsidy, why a decrease in elementary certified FTE's, why is there an increase in certified and non-certified staff at WIS, how is increase in funding for the summer program being used, addressing summer lag, what is driving increase in site licenses, decrease in repair services, why decrease in other purchase services, why difference in certified staff salary expenses per capita basis, why the increase in special education outplacements, based on projected savings could we use those in following year, what happens to Chromebooks when they come off lease, do municipalities get to depreciate assets, where diversity and equity fall within the budgeting, will students be full and in person next year?

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Mr. Neel discussed the Capital budget including updating computers, security cameras, replacement of grounds and maintenance equipment, the servery update at BHS (modernize and update flow), boiler replacement, door replacement, asbestos abatement, sidewalk repairs, fire code and ADA compliance.

MOTION (Berdon/Raynor) to recommend FY 22 Budget to Full BOE for Approval - WITHDRAWN

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gregg Jerolman, Branford resident, spoke about public comment, communication, credibility, transparency, district leadership and board conduct. He stated that it was encouraging to see BOE members asking questions and delving into them.

Peter Berdon, John Prins and Ellen Michaels, thanked the district leadership for the time and effort that they put into the budget and answering their questions.

03 ADJOURN

Mr. Prins adjourned the meeting at 9:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted, *Meredith Gaffney*Secretary

Prepared by, *Kerry Eyrich*